IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A precipitated silica ~~characterized by~~ comprising

a BET surface ~~areas~~ area of 150-400 m^2/g,

a CTAB surface ~~areas~~ area of 145-350 m^2/g,

an Al_2O_3 content of 0.2-5% by weight and

a modified Sears number V_2 of 5-35 ml/(5 g).

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): A precipitated silica of claim 1, ~~characterized in that it~~ wherein the precipitated silica has a DBP absorption of from 180 to 320 g/100 g.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): A precipitated silica of claim 1 ~~or 2~~, ~~characterized in that it~~ wherein the precipitated silica has a BET/CTAB surface ratio of from 1.0 to 1.6.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): A precipitated silica of claim 3 ~~characterized in that it~~ wherein the precipitated silica has a BET/CTAB surface ratio of from 1.2 to 1.6.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): A precipitated silica of claim 1 ~~or 2~~, ~~characterized in that~~

~~it~~ wherein the precipitated silica has a BET/CTAB surface ratio of from 1.33 to 2.43.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): A precipitated silica of ~~any one of claims 1 to 5~~ claim 1, ~~characterized in that it~~ wherein the precipitated silica has a wk coefficient ≤3.4.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): A precipitated silica of ~~any of claims 1 to 6~~ claim 1, ~~characterized in that its~~ wherein the precipitated silica surface has been modified with organosilanes of the formulae

$[R^1_n(RO)_rSi(Alk)_m(Ar)_p]_q[B]$ (I),

$R^1_n(RO)_{3-n}Si(Alkyl)$ (II)

or

$R^1_n(RO)_{3-n}Si(Alkenyl)$ (III),

in which

B is -SCN, -SH, $-SC(O)CH_3$, $-SC(O)(CH_2)_6CH_3$, -Cl, $-NH_2$, $-OC(O)CHCH_2$, $-OC(O)C(CH_3)CH_2$ (if q = 1), or $-S_x-$ (if q = 2),

R and R^1 are each an aliphatic, olefinic, aromatic or arylaromatic radical having 2 to 30 carbon atoms, and ~~possibly being substituted~~ optionally substituted with the following groups: hydroxyl, amino, alkoxide, cyanide, thiocyanide, halogen, sulfonic acid, sulfonic ester, thiol, benzoic acid, benzoic ester, carboxylic acid, carboxylic ester, acrylate, methacrylate or organosilane radical, it being possible for R and R^1 to have an identical or different definition or substitution,

n is 0, 1 or 2,

Alk is a divalent unbranched or branched hydrocarbon radical having 1 to 6 carbon atoms, m is 0 or 1,

Ar is an aryl radical having 6 to 12 carbon atoms, preferably 6 carbon atoms, which can be substituted by the following groups: hydroxyl, amino, alkoxide, cyanide, thiocyanide, halogen, sulfonic acid, sulfonic ester, thiol, benzoic acid, benzoic ester, carboxylic acid, carboxylic ester or organosilane radical,

p is 0 or 1, with the proviso that p and n are not simultaneously 0,

x is a number from 2 to 8,

r is 1, 2 or 3, with the proviso that r + n + m + p = 4,

Alkyl is a monovalent unbranched or branched unsaturated hydrocarbon radical having 1 to 20 carbon atoms, preferably 2 to 8 carbon atoms, Alkenyl is a monovalent unbranched or branched unsaturated hydrocarbon radical having 2 to 20 carbon atoms, preferably 2 to 8 carbon atoms.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): A process for preparing a precipitated silica ~~having~~ wherein the precipitated silica has a

BET surface ~~areas~~ area in the range 150-400 m^2/g,

a CTAB surface ~~areas~~ area in the range 145-350 m^2/g, and

an Al_2O_3 content in the range 0.2-5% by weight ~~where~~ comprising,

a) charging an aqueous waterglass solution ~~is introduced initially~~ into a reactor,

b) metering waterglass and sulfuric acid ~~are metered~~ into the reactor simultaneously into this initial charge at from 55 to 95°C for from 30 to 100 minutes with stirring forming a mixture,

c) ~~the mixture is acidified~~ acidifying the mixture with sulfuric acid to a pH of about 5 to form a product, and

d) ~~a product is filtered and dried~~ filtering and drying the product,

with the proviso that aluminum compounds are added in steps b) and/or c).

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): A process of claim 8, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the components supplied in steps b) and c) each have an identical or different concentration.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): A process of claim 8 ~~or 9~~, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the components supplied in steps b) and c) each have an identical feed rate.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): A process of claim 8 ~~or 9~~, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the components supplied in steps b) and c) each have a different feed rate.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): A process of claim 11, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein with an identical concentration of the components in steps b) and c) the feed rate in step c) is from 110 to 200% of the feed rate in step b).

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): A process of claim 11, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein with an identical concentration of the components in steps b) and c) the feed rate in step c) is from 50 to 100% of the feed rate in step b).

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): A process of claim 8 ~~to 13~~, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the drying is carried out by spin-flash, nozzle tower or spray drying and/or granulation with/without a roll compactor.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): A process of ~~any one of claims 8 to 14~~ claim 8, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the precipitated silica is modified with organosilanes of the formula I to III in mixtures of from 0.5 to 50 parts, based on 100 parts of precipitated silica, in particular from 1 to 15 parts, based on 100 parts of precipitated silica, the reaction between precipitated silica and organosilane being carried out during the preparation of the mixture (in situ) or externally by spray application and subsequent thermal conditioning of the mixture or by mixing of the silane and the silica suspension with subsequent drying and thermal conditioning.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): A vulcanizable rubber mixture or vulcanizate comprising the precipitated silica of ~~any one of claims 1 to 6 or the precipitated silica prepared by any one of claims 8 to 15~~ claim 1.

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): A tire comprising a precipitated silica of ~~any one of claims 1 to 6 or a precipitated silica prepared by any one of claims 8 to 15~~ claim 1.

Claim 18 (Canceled).

Claim 19 (New): A vulcanizable rubber mixture or vulcanizate comprising the precipitated silica prepared according to claim 8.

Claim 20 (New): A tire comprising a precipitated silica prepared according to claim 8.

Claim 21 (New): A battery separator, an anti-blocking agent, a flatting agent in a paint, a paper coating, a defoamer, a gasket, a keypad, a conveyor belt or a window seal comprising the precipitated silica as claimed in claim 1.